REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-26 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-14, 23, and 25 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 4-13 have been amended and Claims 14-26 are newly-presented herein. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016378 (Ozawa et al.). Claims 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ozawa et al. in view U.S. Patent No. 7,170,627 (Tanaka et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ozawa et al. is directed to digital camera and printer, wherein the printer can print an image received from the digital camera. The digital camera transmits a disconnection request to the printer when the digital camera has transmitted the image to the printer. Note paragraphs [0070] and [0075]. The disconnection request is not transmitted from the printer to the digital camera. Moreover, the disconnection request is information for disconnecting the communication between the digital camera and the printer, but is not information indicating that the communication between the two devices can be disconnected. That is, as understood by Applicants, when the disconnection request in Ozawa et al. is transmitted, the digital camera and the printer disconnect their communication unconditionally. Moreover, Ozawa et al. does not disclose or suggest that the digital camera displays information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected.

Accordingly, Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least displaying, before completion of a print (or image outputting) process, by a printer (or image output device), of a digital image transmitted from a digital camera (or image input apparatus) to the printer (or image output device), (a) information indicating that a cable can be disconnected (Claims 1 and 11), (b) information indicating that the digital camera (or image input apparatus) is ready to photograph (Claims 2, 12 and 25), or (c) predetermined information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected. (Claims 14 and 23). Nor does Ozawa et al. disclose or suggest checking if a reception end message is received and displaying, if the reception end message is received, information indicating that the cable can be disconnected (Claims 4 and 7). Ozawa et al. also cannot be said to disclose or suggest that when a print process has been completed, transmitting predetermined information indicating that the print process has been completed, and transmitting, if reception of the image to be printed has been completed during the print processing, predetermined information indicating that disconnection from the digital camera is allowed (Claims 5 and 8). In addition, Ozawa et al. does not disclose or suggest at least displaying, before completion of a print (or image outputting) process of a digital image transmitted from a digital camera (or image input apparatus) to a printer (or image output device), information indicating that the digital camera (or image input apparatus) can be brought outside the communication area with the printer (or image output device)(Claims 10 and 13).

Thus, Ozawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Tanaka et al. is directed to a photo direct printing apparatus that can operate in an index print or layout print mode in which a plurality of images are printed on one print medium. The number of printed sheets is counted in accordance with the total number of images printed on one sheet and a number of actually printed images. When an

error occurs, the printer sends a PrintDisable message to the digital camera indicating that the printer cannot perform the print process. However, Tanaka et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Ozawa et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-14, 23, and 25 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-14, 23, and 25. Dependent Claims 6, 9, 15-22, 24, and 26 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. For example, Claims 6 and 9 recite enabling communication error handling during reception of an image to be printed and disabling communication error handling in a communication process for transmitting status information indicating a print status after transmitting predetermined information indicating that disconnection from the digital camera is allowed. One reason to disable communication error handling at this time is to prevent communication error. Such features are not taught by Ozawa et al. or Tanaka et al., whether taken individually or in combination. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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